The modernisation and expansion of Kolkata airport and 35 non-metro airports is underway as planned.

Share of Rajasthan in profit from petroleum products

†*215. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Rajasthan where the work of exploration and production of petroleum products likely to be started along with the details thereof; and

(b) the quantum of share for the State ensured by Central Government out of the profit earned from the production of petroleum products in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Hydrocarbon exploration operations are being carried out in the districts of Rajasthan namely, Barmer, Baran, Bikaner, Bundi, Bhilwara, Chum, Chittaurgarh, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Jodhpur and Kota. Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) are producing natural gas at the rate of 7.5 lakhs cubic metres per day from Jaisalmer basin in Rajasthan. Natural gas produced by OIL and ONGC is being supplied to Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited through the gas pipeline of GAIL (India) Limited. Crude oil production from Barmer basin, likely to peak at 6-7 million metric tonne per annum, is to commence (by Cairn Energy India Pty Ltd.) in the second half of 2009.

Royalty is payable to the State Government for crude oil and natural gas production in the State. For offshore areas, royalty is payable to the Central Government only. The State Government receives royalty in the range of 12.5% to 20% of well head price on crude oil production for the blocks awarded under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and nomination regimes. The royalty rate on natural gas production is 10% of well head price. Under the NELP, Government will receive profit petroleum in addition to royalty on crude oil and natural gas production, once production commences. For the blocks awarded under NELP, 50% share of profit petroleum is to be shared with the State Governments, as recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission. The State Government shall also benefit to the extent of taxes and duties levied by the State Government on sale of crude oil and natural gas production.

International crude prices *vis-a-vis* domestic petrol price

†*216. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of crude in the international market had come down to 45.50 Dollar per Barrel in the past few days;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the price of crude oil in the international market at the time when the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas were last increased in the past months in the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) the months and years during which crude prices ranged between 45 to 50 Dollar per Barrel in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) International prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained volatile in the recent past. International prices of crude oil have come down since August, 2008 and the average price of Indian Basket of crude oil during November, 2008 was $ 50.91 per barrel, and during December, 2008 (upto 10th) was $ 41.72 per barrel. However, the average price of Indian Basket of crude oil during 2008-09 remains at $ 100.34 per barrel upto 10.12.2008.

(c) The prices of Petrol, Diesel and Domestic LPG were increased on 5th June, 2008 by Rs.5/- per litre, Rs.3/- per litre and Rs.50/- per 14.2 kg. cylinder at Delhi, with corresponding increase in the rest of the country. The Indian Basket of crude oil on 5th June, 2008 was $ 119.81 per barrel. In May, 2008, the Indian basket of crude oil averaged $ 120.91 per barrel. At this level of international oil prices, the quantum of increase in domestic prices should have been much higher.

(d) During the year 2004-05, the annual average price of Indian Basket of crude oil was below $ 45 per barrel and it remained above $ 50 per barrel during the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 (upto 10th December 2008).

The periods during which the average monthly Indian Basket of crude oil prices ranged between $ 45 per barrel to $ 50 per barrel in the international market, since April 2005, are given below :

Price of Indian Basket of crude oil

Month	$ per barrel
March, 2005	49.27
April, 2005	49.43
May, 2005	47.02
November, 2008	50.91
December, 2008 (Upto 10th)	41.72

In view of the fall in international oil prices, the prices of Petrol and Diesel have been reduced by Rs.5/- per litre and Rs.2/- per litre (at Delhi) with effect from 6.12.2008.

Moderation in revenue growth

*217. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Empowered Committee of the State Finance Ministers have expressed apprehension that the global financial meltdown can lead to a moderation in revenue growth;

(b) if so, whether the Committee during its meeting decided on a number of measures to be taken;